# **Appendix B-Comment Letters**

From:

<PSWINN@aol.com>

To:

<tstroh@uc.usbr.gov>

Date:

9/6/02 11:12AM

Subject:

Comments on Price-Stubb Fish Passage SDEA (July 26, 2002)

Subi: Price-Stubb draft comments

Date: 09/05/2002 1:08:49 PM Mountain Daylight Time From: <A HREF="mailto:PSWINN">PSWINN</A>

To: <A HREF="mailto:h20west@acsol.net">h20west@acsol.net</A>

CC: <A HREF="mailto:kayakbum@hotmail.com">kayakbum@hotmail.com</A>, <A

HREF="mailto:PSWINN">PSWINN</A>

Sept 3, 2002

Terence Stroh
US Bureau of Reclamation

Re: Comments on Price-Stubb Fish Passage dated July 26, 2002

As one of the primary river recreation organizations in the Grand Valley area, the Western Association to Enjoy Rivers (WATER) agrees with the preferred alternative for allowing endangered fish proposed in this supplemental draft environmental assessment (SDEA). The Downstream Rock Fish Passage best addresses the concerns of all parties involved.

This alternative also allows for safe potential recreation boat passage. However, the Bureau comments in the SDEA that the fish channel on river left is not intended for safe boat passage. The dam is 300 ft across and the fish ladder channel is 50 ft across, leaving 250 feet of crest with the same elevation. Except at flows that are significantly higher than the 650 cfs taken by the fish ladder cut, the water passing over the 250 ft of level crest will be too shallow for boats, causing boaters to use the fish ladder because there is no other choice. Unfortunately, these low flows often occur during the latter half of the boating season. By not including an alternative to the fish ladder, the Bureau is inadvertently encouraging boaters to use it at low flows.

WATER believes that another, smaller cut should be made in the crest of the dam that concentrates flows above 650 cfs and below 975 cfs (a typical minimum annual low flow). This will provide recreational boaters with an alternative to floating the fish channel and can be done at either no additional cost or a small additional cost. There are precedents for the Bureau to provide safe access, such as sites on a canal in the Denver area and on a diversion dam on the Animas that were built because of deaths associated with original Bureau structures.

According to USGS flow data for Cameo, there were 180 days of flows less than 975 cfs during the past 68 years - less than 1% of the days, and most of these occurred in the winter months when endangered fish do not migrate. Consequently, a second cut which carries 325 cfs (half of the volume of the fish ladder cut) will cause the flow in the fish ladder cut to drop below 650 cfs on average about 2 days per year, certainly not a significant concern,especially since one of these days typically occurs in the winter when fish do not migrate. Using assumptions similar to those in the report

summarizing results of the 1:20 scale physical model study (Price-Stubb Diversion Dam Fish Passage Structure, Colorado River, R-01-01, April 2001), a cut that is 2 feet deep over a width of 5 feet, tapering 20 feet in each direction to the dam crest (overall width 45 ft, max depth 2 ft) would have half the cross sectional area of the fish ladder cut (50 sq ft versus 100 sq ft) and thus take half of the flow (325 cfs vs 650 cfs).

In the event that Colorado State Parks or another government entitiy such as Mesa County or the City of Palisade were to purchase the land on river right adjacent to and downstream from the dam, placement of this cut on river right would allow land access to this channel. Placement of larger rocks within this boating channel would cause river features such as waves and holes which could be utilized for whitewater races and rodeo events. Because the Colorado River has flows year round, these events could be scheduled for periods of time when other whitewater events in Colorado were not possible due to low flows, drawing visitors to the area which do not currently come here. Other cities which host these events have seen significant economic benefits.

We estimate the Bureau would need to emplace about 7,000 cubic yards less rock than they would if this channel were not installed, assuming the cross sectional area of rock that the Bureau would not need to emplace is the same as the cross sectional area of the cut in the dam over the 400 ft. length of the rock wedge below the dam. Not having to purchase, haul and emplace this volume of would significantly offset the cost of making the cut in the dam.

We urge the Bureau to consider this modification to the preferred alternative.

Pete Winn, Water Park Committee Western Association To Enjoy Rivers (WATER) Grand Junction CO

CC: <PSWINN@aol.com>, <kayakbum@hotmail.com>, <h2owest@acsol.net>



## MESA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Land Use and Development ♦ Long Range Planning ♦ Code Enfor

750 MAIN STREET

P. O. BOX 20000

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO 8

OFFICIAL FILE COPY RECEIVED BOR W.C.A.O. NORTHERN DIVISION

CNTR

5 September, 2002

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

Attn: Carol DeAngelis 2764 Compass Dr., Suite 106

Grand Junction, CO 81506-8785

Re: Supplemental Draft EA - Fish Passage - Price-Stubb Diversion Dan

Dear Ms. DeAngelis:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft EA for a fish passage at the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam and fish screen in the Government Highline Canal. Mesa County is committed to conservation of natural resources and is supportive of this project. While supportive of the project, the County offers the following:

Mesa County requires a floodplain permit for any construction activity that takes place in the Colorado River floodplain. The *Mesa County Land Development Code 2000*, section 7.13 through 7.13.11 contains specific criteria necessary to obtain this permit. For more specific information please contact Mesa County Floodplain Administrator, Kent Wagoner at 970-255-7190.

The County may require an administrative site plan review for temporary use activities in the construction staging area. Sections 3.5 and 3.5.11 of the *Mesa County Land Development Code* 2000 provide the information necessary to obtain this clearance. For further information or specific questions please contact Christie Barton, Planner 1, at 970-244-1744.

Construction of a hydroelectric power generation project may require a Conditional Use Permit from Mesa County. Such facilities are included in the definition of Industrial use Categories under manufacturing and Production (Sections 5.1 and 12.6 of the *Mesa County Land Development Code 2000*). Please call 970-244-1636 for more information.

We request a weed management plan (including follow-up control measures) be included as an element of the reclamation and revegetation plan for the staging area and any wetlands mitigation area. Please contact the Mesa County Horticulture, Weed, and Pest Inspector, Judith Sirota at 970-255-0795 for a list of designated noxious weeds in Mesa County, review of your weed management plan, or any questions you may have.

Mesa County requires an access permit for any access to and from county roads. Additional county permits that may be required include: grading, building, surface disturbance permits for work within County rights-of-way. Please contact Mesa County Public Works Department at 970-244-1765.

Continued on back of page

Comments - Supplemental Draft EA - Fish Passage - Price-Stubb Diversion Dam 5 September, 2002

As a partner in the Mesa County Greenway project we support the protection and conservation of the Colorado River riparian area for a variety of purposes including critical wildlife habitat, irrigation diversions, and recreational uses. We understand the preferred alternative may provide the opportunity for a trail corridor adjacent to Interstate 70 and would provide limited recreational boating opportunities.

If I can be of assistance to you please contact me at 970-244-1650.

Sincerely,

Keith B. Fife, AIC

Long Range Planning Division Director

 Kurt Larsen, Director, Department of Planning and Development Linda Dannenberger, Land use and Planning Division Director Kent Wagoner, Floodplain Administrator Judith Sirota, Horticultural, Weed and Pest Inspector Christie Barton, Planner 1 Mr. Terence Stroh
Bureau of Reclamation
Western Colorado Area Office
2764 Compass Drive
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Dear Mr. Stroh:

This responds to the Price-Stubb Fish Passage Supplemental Draft Environmental Assessment.

I support your preferred alternative, which is a Downstream Rock Fish Passage. I believe this alternative best meets the concerns of the various interested entities. This alternative will provide a reasonably safe boat passage, which is the chief concern of those involved with the Colorado River Greenway.

I would like you to know that the Riverfront Commission is looking at a greenway trail on river left at this location. Therefore, anything you can do to make the riprap fill against Highway 70 compatible with a trail would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Whath

ROBERT M. CRON Legacy Coordinator

Colorado River Greenway

From:

"Gary Lacy" <Gary.Lacy@worldnet.att.net>

To:

"Terence Stroh" <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov>

Date:

8/23/02 12:24PM

Subject:

Price-Stubbs

I have reviewed your Draft Supplemental EA for the above project and concur with the preferred alternative as long as appropriate, navigable, in-stream whitewater structures are included on the downstream face of the dam. These structures need to be spaced considerably apart and designed to function safely for a wide range of paddlers at a wide range of flows. This can be done economically and will be a benefit to the fish and the habitat/recreational value of the area. Plaese review my drawings commissioned by the Colorado Riverfront commission.

Thankyou, Gary Lacy PE



# CREDA

### **Colorado River Energy Distributors Association**

#### ARIZONA

Arizona Municipal Power Users Association

Arizona Power Authority

Arizona Power Pooling Association

Irrigation and Electrical Districts

Association

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (also New Mexico, Utah)

Salt River Project

#### **COLORADO**

Colorado Springs Utilities

Intermountain Rural Electric Association

Platte River Power Authority

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc. (also Nebraska, Wyoming, New Mexico)

Yampa Valley Electric Association, Inc.

#### **NEVADA**

Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Silver State Power Association

#### **NEW MEXICO**

Farmington Electric Utility System

Los Alamos County

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Cooperative

City of Truth or Consequences

#### UTAH

City of Provo

Strawberry Electric Service District

Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems

Utah Municipal Power Agency

#### WYOMING

Wyoming Municipal Power Agency

### Leslie James

**Executive Director** CREDA

4625 S. Wendler Drive, Suite 111 Tempe, Arizona 85282

Phone: 602-748-1344 Fax: 602-748-1345 Cellular: 602-469-4046

Email: creda@awest.net September 23, 2002

Mr. Terence Strob Bureau of Reclamation Western Colorado Office 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106 Grand Junction, CO 81506

Via email: tstroh@uc.usbr.gov

RE: Supplemental Draft Environmental Assessment for Endangered Fish Passage at the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam

Dear Mr. Stroh:

The Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA) is a non-profit association comprised of power customers of the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP). CREDA members serve nearly three million consumers in six states; CREDA is a participant in the Upper Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Program.

CREDA offers the following comments on the Draft EA:

- Throughout the document there is reference made to costs of the various alternatives and comment that certain costs will be funded by the Recovery Program. customers fund a significant portion of the Recovery Program costs, we believe it appropriate to include "CRSP power customers" in the listing of entities identified as participating in the Recovery Program (page 2, first full paragraph). Likewise, in responding to the "Issue: Some people question using taxpayers' money to provide passage for endangered fish" on page 44, CREDA suggests including specifics as to how the Recovery Program is funded (i.e., capital funding by States and CRSP power customers; ongoing base funding by CRSP power customers).
- Clearly, an objective of the Recovery Program is to control nonnative fish species (EA page 3), as "predation by and competition with nonnative fishes are believed to be significant factors in the decline of the Colorado River fishes" (EA page 36). The EA describes the 5.3-mile area between Price-Stubb Diversion Dam and the Grand Valley Diversion Dam as relatively devoid of nonnative fish. The Preferred Alternative would open up this area to both native and nonnative fish, and as has been seen in the Grand Valley, nonnative fish constitute the vast (over 90%) majority within the fish community. Keeping nonnative fish out of this reach is desirable; a conventional fish ladder with a trap to selectively pass only native fish is not only less costly than the Preferred Alternative (\$2.5 million vs. \$3.1 million), but it would provide an additional 5.3miles of river plus a tributary relatively free of nonnative fish. Passage without selective passage (a trap) reduces the value of the 5.3 miles to recovery of endangered fish, except as a migration corridor. It also negatively affects the area as potential habitat for downstream migrating larval fish due to the potential for predation. The Draft EA discusses the benefits of "more natural" passage but does not appear to address this concern and goal. We believe there is an opportunity for the Recovery Program to limit contact between endangered and nonnative fish by allowing selective passage at Price-Stubb. It is not clear from the technical discussion that the Preferred Alternative justifies the added cost. Since the Recovery Program will be funding the project, we suggest the technical merits and costs of the alternatives should be discussed within the appropriate committees of the Recovery Program prior to a final decision being made.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft EA.

Sincerely, Leslie James **Executive Director** 

Cc: CREDA Board

From: <carlos\_sauvage@co.blm.gov>

To: <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov>

**Date:** 8/27/02 4:13PM

Subject: Price-Stubb Passage comment

As a personal comment, I support the proposed alternative (Downstream Rock Fish Passage) as the most practical. I would prefer total dam removal if not for the probable future likelihood and cost of nusiance liability issues.

Carlos Sauvage, Box 55,

Palisade, Co. 81526

# STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Region 3

222 South Sixth Street, Room 317 Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-2769 (970) 248-7225 FAX# (970) 248-7254



January 28, 2004

Ms. Carol DeAngelis Western Colorado Area Manager Bureau of Reclamation 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106 Grand Junction, CO 81506-8785

Dear Ms. DeAngelis:

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is requesting that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) clarify the potential inclusion of a Whitewater Park recreational feature as part of the BOR project to construct a fish passage at the Price-Stubb dam. CDOT is concerned that the BOR Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has not addressed the issues and impacts of any proposed recreational feature. If the Whitewater Park is being considered for inclusion in the BOR project, it's impacts must be evaluated and included in an EA. CDOT believes that a Whitewater Park would significantly impact the operation and safety of I-70 and other adjacent properties and interests. Potential Whitewater Park EA scoping issues would include public access, safety, ownership, liability, management responsibility, parking, sanitation, impacts to riparian areas, I-70, railroad property and facilities, and the Ute Water pump station.

In 1960 CDOT purchased the Right of Way (ROW) for construction of I-70 from the Grand Valley Water Users Association and the Palisade Irrigation Company immediately downstream of the Price Stubb dam and encompassing the full width of the Colorado River. CDOT then constructed a Colorado River channel change to allow for I-70 river encroachments and the construction of a 1200 ft. long bridge. Since the construction of I-70, the ROW has been administered with full access control and CDOT and the UP Railroad have not allowed public access to this portion of the Colorado River. In the early 1980's CDOT and the Railroad improved the gate and guardrail to prevent river access and unauthorized camping within the ROW from the old Highway 6 bridge. CDOT controls public access and manages this area to preserve and protect the riverside riparian habitat.

CDOT and FHWA support the establishment of a fish passage and a uniform gradient fill to eliminate the Price-Stubb Dam obstructions. The proposed whitewater park lies within the Interstate 70 controlled access ROW. Any activities within this controlled access ROW are severely restricted. CDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approvals are required for any BOR activities or actions within the Interstate Highway ROW, which will be

Ms. Carol DeAngelis Bureau of Reclamation January 28, 2004 Page 2

documented in an IGA after completion of an EA. We are also concerned that private fund raising for final design of a Whitewater Park is apparently proceeding prior to any environmental analysis and without landowner approvals in order to meet the BOR project schedule.

We are requesting that you clarify the BOR project scope and schedules for the Price-Stubb Fish Passage. If a Whitewater Park recreation feature is being considered as part of the BOR project, we are requesting that you re-draft the EA and initiate formal scoping contacts with directly affected individuals, landowners and entities including the FHWA, CDOT, UPRR, Ute Water, and the Town of Palisade so that these issues can be adequately addressed and resolved.

Sincerely,

Ed Fink, Director

**Transportation Region 3** 

Edward RIX.

c: FHWA

Town of Palisade

Ute Water

File

From:

"Leslie James - CREDA" < creda@qwest.net>

To:

"Terry Stroh" <TSTROH.4GJPO@uc.usbr.gov>

Date:

Wed, May 19, 2004 9:48 AM

Subject:

Price Stubb EA

Terry - I'm not going to send in further comments on the EA, but just wanted to point out "State" should be "States" on your cover page.

Leslie James

From: To: <h2owest@acsol.net>
<tstroh@uc.usbr.gov>

Date: Subject: 5/25/2004 11:46:23 AM Fwd: River park support

---- Message Forwarded on 05/25/04 ----

From: "Morgan, Rick" < Rick. Morgan@med.va.gov>

To: "info@grandvalleyriverpark.org" <info@grandvalleyriverpark.org> Subject: River park support

Date: Mon. 24 May 2004 10:08:46 -0700

Hello, I am a Family and E/D, Physician considering moving to Grand Junction. My decision to move to GJ would greatly be enhanced if you build a kayak whitewater play park there. I currently live in Farmington NM. which has a small two drop river park. This has been a great asset to this town, with many boaters traveling in to use it when the water is low elsewhere. These boaters buy food, stay in the hotels etc as they visit. It is an easily maintained park as boaters do not carry coolers of beer or leave trash. Just look at Santa Rita play park in Durango also. This certainly enhances a town to have this type of facility available. As a community minded physician, I would certainly support this park with my taxes, with donations of time and money to keep it safe and beautiful. Please approve the public access, play park option as the best option for community enhancement and future growth. If you want to contact me please do so through DRJRMorgan@yahoo.com or (505) 360-8463. Please feel free to share this with the public meeting as I will not be able to attend. J Rick Morgan DO

From:

"Karen Hensley" <kfhoz@hotmail.com>

To:

<tstroh@uc.usbr.gov> 5/26/2004 3:41:03 PM

Date: Subject:

Support for Whitewater park ON THE COLORADO RIVER NEAR PALISADE

Dear Sir or Madam,

My vacations each year are taken to states that have white water to run. I support having a fish ladder with whitewater recreation features, and a park on the Colorado River near Palisade.

Although I am not local, I expect to visit Colorado and other states to paddle.

Sincerely, Karen F. Hensley 7934 - 170 Place NE Redmond, WA 98052 May 28, 2004

Mr. Terence Stroh Bureau of Reclamation Western Colorado Area Office 2764 Compass Drive Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

Dear Mr. Stroh:

I have reviewed the revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Providing Endang Passage at the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam on the Colorado River near Palisade, Colorado

I am a whitewater kayaker, a former resident of Utah and Colorado, with a background in wildlife biology and natural resource management, and have been a land use and resource planner and environmental compliance specialist for a federal land management agency for nineteen years. I have kayaked extensively on various reaches of the Colorado River from Glenwood Springs to the Grand Canyon since 1987, and I continue to travel to Colorado to take advantage of the whitewater opportunities. I have been a member of American Whitewater since 1996. The agency for which I work is currently engaged in trying to protect and restore wild anadromous salmonid stocks listed as threatened.

RECEIVED BOR

I have no substantive comments as defined by NEPA on the proposed action. The EA is well-written, well organized and complete, and could be used as a model of a concise analytical NEPA document.

I am pleased that the Bureau has considered whitewater recreation to be an important use of the project area, and has accounted for boater safety and recreational opportunities as well as endangered fishes.

However, if I had to choose between whitewater recreation and protection of endangered fishes, the fish are more important to me. Had fish and other aquatic resources been given equal consideration with water supply, power generation, and large storage reservoirs over the past 100 years, the fish would not be endangered and there would be less demand to create artificial whitewater recreation facilities such as whitewater parks.

Increasing human populations and competing demands for water, particularly from the Colorado River, will make protection of native fish increasingly difficult. The whitewater community is one of the strongest advocates for river conservation in the United States. Desirable whitewater conditions are almost always compatible with protection and restoration of endangered fish populations in western rivers.

I encourage the Bureau to support the whitewater community in its pursuit of appropriate whitewater opportunities and facilities, and to work with CDOT to provide safe and legal access to Colorado River.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the project.

Sincerely,

Aida Parkinson 1515 Airport Road McKinleyville CA 95519

cc: (via electronic mail; no hardcopy)

Acting Executive Director, American Whitewater, Silver Springs, MD < <u>Jason@amwhitewater.org</u>>

Pete Winn, WATER, Grand Junction, CO <PSWINN@aol.com>

From:

"Rita C" <ritac@ahinet.com>

To: Date: <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov> 5/31/2004 10:22:28 AM

Subject:

Revised Supplemental DRAFT EA

May 31, 2004

Terence Stroh U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Mr. Stroh:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Revised Supplemental DRAFT Environmental Assessment (EA) for providing endangered fish passage at the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam on the Colorado River.

The Orchard Mesa Irrigation District provides irrigation water to nearly 10,000 acres of land located on East Orchard Mesa and Orchard Mesa in the Grand Valley. Our point of diversion from the Colorado River is at the Grand Valley Project Diversion Dam in Debeque Canyon, operated by the Grand Valley Water User's Association, and our local point of diversion is at the Colorado River Siphon located 3,600 feet upstream of the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam.

#### Our comments are as follows:

- 1. We note in the DRAFT EA the discussion relative to scour and velocities in the river and the possible changes that may occur in four of the five alternatives. Although the Bureau of Reclamation is convinced that no scour or velocity changes will affect the siphon, we feel it necessary to be on record as concerned that the four-foot cover over the siphon may be affected, to our detriment. If that cover is lessened, the siphon will float, causing untold problems and damages to our landowners/irrigators. We would ask for assurance that, were that to occur, the Recovery Program and/or the Bureau of Reclamation would assume responsibility for repairs and costs associated with those repairs, as well as damages to our landowners and their lands and/or crops.
- 2. Although we do not have a point of diversion below the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam, we do have a "check back channel" located downstream from the Price-Stubb and across the river (river left) from the Grand Valley Irrigation Company's diversion. We have some safety concerns if Alternative 4 is selected, relative to whitewater rafters coming into the check channel and being injured by being thrown up against our check gates. We understand that the rafters should be exiting the river before they reach our location, however, we also know that that may not always occur. Our safety concerns should be noted if that is the alternative selected.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the DRAFT EA.

Sincerely,

Rita Crumpton, Manager Orchard Mesa Irrigation District

**CC:** "Dick Proctor" <Gvwua1147@aol.com>, "Phil Bertand" <gvic@sprynet.com>, "Mark Hermundstad" <mherm@wth-law.com>

# Frank Bering

284 W. Morrison Court Grand Junction, CO, 81503

Home Phone: 970-242-7519

Fax: 970-242-6654

email: frankbering@bresnan.net

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

RECEIVED BOR W.C.A.O.

NORTHEPN DIVISION

Mr. Brett Uilenberg

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
2764 Compass Drive

Grand Junction, CO 81506

Dear Mr. Uilenberg

OFIK International (Old Farts in Kayaks) heartily supports The Price Stubbs Water Park. Kayaking is a wonderful sport for Geezers. Worn out knees and hips don't matter. In a kayak we too can become Otters. I started on my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday eight years ago. A Whitewater Park makes it easy for us, and everyone else, to practice and enjoy playing in the river.

The Price Stubbs site offers water flows adequate to host national competitions, international events, and recreation for Colorado boaters year around. It can become one of the premier facilities in the US.

Thank you and the Bureau of Reclamation for your support.

Sincerely,

Frank Bering



June 2, 2004

Mr. Terence Stroh General Biologist U.S. Department of the Interior **Bureau of Reclamation** Western Colorado Area Office Grand Junction, Colorado

RE:

Comments on the

Price-Stubb Fish Passage

Revised Supplemental Draft Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Stroh:

McLaughlin Water Engineers/ASCG is providing this letter in response to your request for comments issued in the News Release of May 14, 2004. We believe that the alternative "Downstream Rock Fish Passage with Whitewater Recreation Features" is the best alternative of those presented. It will benefit the environment, the fishery, the condition of the dam, enhance safety, provide for boating recreation, and by far is of the highest socio-economic benefit.

We have been employed by the WATER group to explore initial concepts for a whitewater facility. Basically, a whitewater bypass stream is feasible, within the slope specified and the length allowed. We make this statement based on our experience with similar facilities and review of the site conditions. Key details, coordination with your proposal, boating flow range, and other important facilities and provisions need to be explored further, which may be undertaken in subsequent efforts. Because of the vertical drop through the reach and length of potential whitewater downstream to the I-70 bridges, this site has extraordinary potential for whitewater boating on a regional and national basis. The Colorado River has flow that would make boating possible when most other rivers have dried up. The site offers near year round whitewater, and a socio-economic opportunity for the Grand Valley.

We offer the following in a positive sense, to improve the design concepts, facilities, and chances of implementing a whitewater passage:

12596 WEST BAYAUD AVE. #200 303.458.5550 LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80228

Fax 303.480.9766

- 1. River dam remodeling and river restoration projects routinely provide for boating and river recreation. A "cost of doing business" for this fishery project should be to implement features for safe boating and river recreation.
- 2. The dam as it exists, and with any alternatives that have a steep sloping face and/or conventional "hydraulic jumps." or "keepers" in boater vernacular, have extreme safety problems. We don't believe the existing dam is likely to remain stable, given the scour hole that has developed and the degrading streambed below.
- 3. The fish passage as devised is a singular purpose component, which as indicated in the EA could be hazardous to boating. We have included joint fish and boating passage capability into most of our facilities with success. A combined facility would provide for lower fish passage velocities and increase habitat. This performance can readily demonstrated by existing facilities, hydraulic physical models and numerical 3-d modeling. As presently devised the whitewater and fish passage components compete for water, have conflicts which can be avoided or further minimized, and don't achieve the best economics and benefits, in our opinion,
- Since no detailed analytical and design work for the whitewater passage has been conducted, the plan of action should allow reasonable time and funding to pursue a better coordinated project. This statement should not be construed to imply that the project with whitewater is not feasible, but that there are important issues, including developing a better opinion of the project costs with whitewater facilities. Additional time would allow for funding efforts.
- Somewhat like CDOT, we have concerns about site access and safety.
- 6. However we don't think this concern should be used as to eliminate boating. Boating is popular and active along most of our highways and can be reasonably managed. We believe safe access directly to the west (right) bank, portage, and emergency provisions must be included. Highway safety and provision for future transportation needs should be included, which we believe has been incorporated. The best action regarding right of way would be for the river and west bank to be owned by the local government sponsor.
- 7. The Hydro Power key details should be explored, such that the fishery and people are provided for. The concept of using old head gates and intakes hazardous to fish or boaters, is not valid in our view.

Again, we support the Alternative, "Downstream Rock Fish Passage with Whitewater Recreation Features" of the alternatives discussed.

Sincerely,

McLaughlin Water Engineers, Ltd.

An ASCG Company

William C. Taggart, P.E

Senior Engineer

#### UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY



Susan K. Grabler Manager Industry & Public Projects 1400 W. 52<sup>™</sup> Avenue Denver, CO 80221

June 3, 2004

Ms. Sue Moyer Deputy Area Manager Bureau of Reclamation 2764 Compass Drive, Ste. 106 Grand Jct., CO 81506-8785

SUBJECT: <u>Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam</u>

Dear Ms. Moyer:

Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) has reviewed the DEA for the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam. Our concerns relate to the public access with your preferred alternative with Whitewater Features.

As we understand it, this alternative would require public access on/across UPRR property. This is an unacceptable alternative for UPRR. Any <u>public</u> access across any track in the State of Colorado is under the authority of the Colorado Public Utility Commission (PUC).

The PUC has sole authority to either grant or deny public access across railroads in CO. UPRR will not grant public access across any proposed or existing private road crossings.

In locations throughout the United States, railroads have had serious concerns and issues with public access to rivers, and lakes across active railroad tracks. We believe your preferred alternative will encourage trespassing on UPRR property and we find this unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Grabler

Manager Industry & Public Projects

Duran Go CMalle

C: David E. Peterson – Omaha Joe Whalen – Denver John Matthews – Denver Robert Gutierrez – Grand Jct. Ray Jantzen – CO PUC From: To:

"Frank Bering" <frankbering@bresnan.net>
"Bureau of Reclamation" <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov>
6/3/2004 6:51:53 AM

Date:

Subject:

Water Park email list

Terry, Thanks very much for an excellent presentation last night. I would like you to add my name to your email list and Susie Attaway asked me to add hers too. frankbering@bresnan.com and attaway03@yahoo.com Thanks again. All the best, Frank

June 4 NORTHERN DIVISION Jo: Bureau of Reclamation \_ V. D. D. D. CLASS E Dubject: Price - Stubb Bish Passage all MAS To Whom It Way Concern \_ Diet I would like to thoub the operate and yesticizent at the June 2, 2004 meeting Palisala. also, thanks for a coryo of the Droft environmental assessment. Resonally & squefer the Downstream work fish gospage with whitewater features, if that not gospible my next choice would be the downstream rock passage. The only alternative & an appeal to is the "no action" choice. I think we should try our best to save the endangered fish. ( & would hate to have my fale Determined by my looke, my ecological niche and how other species my usefullnen.) Being over seventy years all and Soun to my last two Sayales; I will only see limited us. of a whitewater youle, but what an argorlumition for future generation. In supporting either of the above proposale, it may help some fish expecien that in may youth we were very hard on Good Job - Thomas again Doch Stephene JACK STEPHENS

737 36.1 ROAD

PALISADE, CO 81526

From:

"JOHN DALTON" <jdaltonpe@bresnan.net>

To:

<tstroh@uc.usbr.gov> 6/5/2004 2:14:13 PM

Date: Subject:

Comment on Whitewater Park

Dear Sirs.

It was my pleasure to attend the public meeting in Palisade this past week. I would like to say that I think the effort put into this project from all entities involved is much appreciated and will hopefully be justified with the construction of an excellent park. It seems to me that everyone is hard with open minds and an end goal in sight.

I have 3 comments to make.

- 1) I think the whitewater park is an excellent idea that will benefit everyone in the Grand Valley. Business owners, particularly in Palisade, should benefit in general from the increase in tourism. I can envision front range enthusiasts coming to the valley as a destination to kayak the park, mountain bike in Fruita and do some wine tasting. Young people in the valley will benefit by use of the whitewater park because it will give them something healthy and exciting to do. I have been whitewater kayaking steadily since I first moved here in 1982, mostly in Colorado but trips have taken me paddling all over the world. One thing that I have noticed about our whitewater community here in grand Junction is that there is a noticeable lack of young enthusiasts in the Grand Valley as compared to other locations, particularly Glenwood or Durango. I believe that this is mostly due to the fact that if a young person wants to go boating then he/she generally must get a ride from family to a relatively distant location if they are to find any decent waves. Mom will likely be willing to drive junior to the whitewater park with his friends and pick them up a few hours later but it is much less likely that she will take them to Glenwood which is the nearest consistent unpermitted whitewater around. The kids who are likely to take up whitewater as a sport are naturally drawn to excitement, which is a good thing when they have a healthy source for it. It seems to me that in today's world there are too many kids getting bored and the things they end up doing to find excitement often leads them into trouble. A whitewater park addict is the kind of addict the valley could use.
- 2) The representative from C.D.O.T. discussed a need to spend about \$35,000 to \$40,000 on raising the barrier adjacent to the road so that drivers will not notice the whitewater activities. I am not sure that is something we should be worrying about. Every time I drive Glenwood Canyon I see rafts and kayaks from the road. There are lots of tight turns on that section of highway and there seems to be no problem with accidents. I personally believe a raised barrier for the Price Stubbs turn is not necessary.
- 3) The present plan proposes two separate channels, one for fish and one for the whitewater park. I fail to see the logic in this. The first justification made at the meeting suggested that the biologists are afraid that boats hanging out in eddies will scare the fish and stress them too much. There are boats hanging out everywhere in our river system and particularly at rapids in the canyons and the fish still pass up and down. I can assure you that shocking each fish twice a year to count them and trapping them in the fish ladders is much more stressful than something floating on the water. When I suggested a single passage at the meeting I was told that it wouldn't work because the water would be too fast and these are low speed fish. After thinking about it for a while, I can not accept that as a valid answer. How do fish get past all the rapids in their migrations? A whitewater park mimics a rapid with natural river features. These endangered fish have survived thousands of years going up and down rapids. It is their natural environment and with proper design of the whitewater aspect they should have no problems. I have trouble believing that the fish can migrate up Cataract and Westwater Canyons but not get up a relatively short whitewater channel. There are many other whitewater parks around the country that double as fish passages. I totally understand and agree with fish ladders at dams and diversions where there is no alternative passage but this is just not the case with a whitewater channel in place.

#### Conclusion

I am in favor of the project as a single channel fish passage/whitewater park. I don't believe it is realistic

or efficient to have double channels and my biggest concern is that we will waste taxpayer money because of lack of big picture planning by the D.O.W. and B.R. I know fish ladders are necessary at most dams but this is a different scenario and the D.O.W. needs to take a closer look at what they are requiring.

Sincerely,

John Dalton P.E. 489-22.25 Road #1 Grand Junction, CO 81503 970-245-9412

Kayla Dodson & Phil Coebergh 569 1/2 Cindy Ann Rd From the Desk of Mr. Philip J. Coebergh '67 GU, (0 81501 June 6, 2004 RE: Fish passage and white water park east of Palesade, Ev, Dear me Strok, We are very in paror of a fish ladder with a, boating passage or whe enveronment and benefits for the commu

OFFICIAL FILE COPY RECEIVED BOR W.C.A.O. NORTHERN DIVISION CLASS PRI CNTR FLDR CLASS Conserno the dam

haven't seen in years. Any thing
that broadens the econimal pass
of this valley can't be ignored
one wasted if we want to
emprove our enjoyment of life
here in the Grand valley

Hor finelmark

Dear Terry, am writing to let you that my wite, Susan Cowle myself want to enthusiastica support and enlosse, to the the construction with the whitewater Leafures. We have attended both public Queedings regarding this project. We have resided in Ot since 1974 and in Palisade 5me 1988. We have 4 children and 7 Grankhildren all who enjoy river sports -Kayaking vaffing etc. The project willenhand om Valleys afractiveness, encourage found spending and provide a healthy exciting activity for our youth. I have worked with Dist. 51, as a Courselor for the past 30 yrs. and the need for exciting, active sports choises in our long hot Summers is railly nealed Heave build the whitewater pack! PS. A/50, as in Clausel Caryon-The RR, highway & local four home with agreements of coexet with whitewater activities - we do can & accel to. 688 Brentribod De Palisade Colo A safe way to purible perking, access, trails etc. certainly can be accomplished & There 8196 willing to volumbers to help. 464-7348

From:

Brent Uilenberg Terry Stroh

Date:

6/1/2004 2:40:59 PM

Subject:

Fwd: Grand Valley River Park

>>> <Boyleengn@cs.com> 5/31/2004 8:35:53 AM >>>

Hi Brent:

We met up at Powderhorn a couple of seasons ago. You were with Terri at the Lodge and I was with Alan and Robbie Koos. I am writing to say I support the Bureau's preferred alternative of the downstream rock fish pasage with whitewater recreational features at the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam near Palisade. I am a local paddler who lives on the river in Palisade, but I will miss the June 2 meeting regarding this matter since I will be out of town. I wanted to drop you this e-mail to voice my support for the Bureau's preferred alternative. Thanks, Tim Boyle

From:

**Brent Uilenberg** 

To:

Terry Stroh

Date:

6/1/2004 2:29:32 PM

Subject:

Fwd: Support for Preferred Alternative for Price-Stubb fish Passage

>>> "Barbara Bernhardt" <solituderd@earthlink.net> 5/29/2004 1:34:33 PM >>> Dear Brian -

Can't attend the meeting the evening of June 2 in Palisade, but wanted to let you know that I am enthusiastic about Alternative #3,

which I understand includes the provision of whitewater features along with and in-channel fish ladder at the Price-Stubb dam. I also

understand that CDOT is a bit leary of such a feature adjacent to the freeway, but it seems that miles of recreational whitewater along the

I-70 corridor in Glenwood Canyon has existed for years without undue safety mishaps, so it seems that this short stretch of similar use

would have not different effect. Thanks for your support!

Barbara Bernhardt solituderd@earthlink.net Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.

From:

"Chris Menges" <cmenges@ahra.salida.co.us>

To: Date: <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov> 6/14/2004 2:21:57 PM Palisade WW Park

Subject: Terry,

As both a kayaker and a State Parks employed professional in the conservation and river management field, I would like to voic my support of the Whitewater Park proposal for the Colorado River near Palisade. I also support the in-stream fish ladder. Whitewater parks greatly improve recreational opportunities and have proven to generate positive economic and social impacts on many other towns and counties in Colorado and in other States.

From:

"Day, Derek" < Day@cira.colostate.edu>

To: Date: <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov> 6/14/2004 2:18:57 PM

Subject:

White water park on Colorado River near Palisade

Terry Stroh.

I'd like to comment on the proposed Whitewater park on the Colorado River near Palisade. I'm all for it - the BLM prefered plan sounds great to me.

I'm sure if a good whitewater park were built - the boaters would utilize it. This would help the economy of Palisade and I think remove some of the boating pressure on Westwater canyon. Thanks, Derek Day

From: "Chapman, Nathan" <nathanc@amgen.com> To:

"tstroh@uc.usbr.gov" <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov>

Date: 6/14/2004 1:18:48 PM

Subject: Price\_Stubb Whitewater park and Fish Passage

### Hello Terry.

I have heard of your endeavor and would like add my support of the idea to add a kayaker's play park at the same time! I agree that it would greatly enhance the river there, as well as bringing resources to the town of Palisade and nearby. food, gas, lodging, and the possibility of a boating/outfitting store as well. The parks in Golden, Boulder, Steamboat Springs and Lyons are all great additions to an already picturesque lifestyle, I would assume your population would appreciate them as well. I have never seen extra trash generated by the boaters in these areas, as they often work extra hard to help keep things clean (you see it all when you're floating in the water with it all!!), but I have seen the random "guests" that sit along the park be less than careful unfortunately. I would suggest facilities should be provided, to maintain sanitary conditions.

I would be happy to help as I may be able to, just let me know!

thanks for all you're doing!!! nathan

<<...OLE\_Obj...>> Nathan Chapman Amgen Inc. 303-401-1492 MS AC24E

From:

Brent Uilenberg

To:

Terry Stroh

Date:

6/15/2004 8:19:10 AM

Subject:

Fwd: Grand Valley River Park

>>> "Tim Walker" <TimWalker@kw.com> 6/14/2004 3:11:58 PM >>> Dear Brent:

I am a Colorado native and avid kayaker, residing in Colorado Springs. I just learned of the proposed combination of a fish ladder and whitewater park in Palisade. I fully support the combination of functions into one plan. My experience, is that every fall and every spring I make a trip to Westwater Canyon in Utah to paddle and so do many other kayakers. Kayakers will travel to get their fix of whitewater. A year-round whitewater park near Palisade would definitely be a benefit to the overall project scope. In better water years, I've personnaly made the weekend trip over to experience the Big Sur wave that is upstream from the proposed park. I would love to have an attraction that would take me to the Grand Valley more often. I see nothing but benefits coming from a combined plan.

I support the Grand Valley River Park.

Regards,

Tim Walker 1224 Custer Avenue Colorado Springs, CO 80903 719-265-0471

From:

Ronald Hamblin <ronald.hamblin@sevier.k12.ut.us>

To:

<tstroh@uc.usbr.gov> 6/15/2004 10:05:17 AM

Date: Subject:

Price Stubb fish ladder

I would really like to see a kayak park along with the fish ladder. Now I have to drive to Glenwood Spr. (4 hrs.), Green River, Wyo. (6hrs.), or Reno, Nv. (10 hrs) to play on a good wave. I'd spend a lot of time and gas money there. Thanks, Ron Hamblin

### **Whitewater West**

418 S. 7th St. Grand Junction, CO 81501 970-241-0441 Fax: 970-263-0074

> OFFICIAL FLE COP RECEIVED BOR W.C.

Pete Atkinson Whitewater West 418 S. 7th St. Grand Junction, CO 81501

June 15, 2004

Mr. Terrance Stroh Bureau of Reclamation Western Colorado Area Office 2764 Compass Drive Grand Junction Co 81506

RE: Price Stubb Fish Passage

Dear Mr. Stroh:

This letter is in response to the request for public comment on the Price Stubb Fish Passage Revised Supplemental Draft Environmental Assessment.

I strongly support the Preferred Alternative which has been identified as "Downstream Rock Fish Passage with Whitewater Recreational Features". I believe this alternative will address the needs and concerns of all parties with interests in the Price Stubb Dam. The opportunity to create whitewater features will be of great benefit to the local economy of neighboring communities for years to come.

I believe the preferred alternative maximizes benefits for the taxpayer by creating a facility that achieves the goals of the fish recovery program and creates recreational opportunities. The preferred alternative also removes a significant hazard to boaters and at the same time returns the river to a more natural state.

The preferred alternative is admirable example of cooperation between federal agencies, local government, private businesses, and the general public.

Sincerely,

Pete Atkinson

From:

Susie Attaway <attaway03@yahoo.com>

To: Date: <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov> 6/15/2004 7:18:16 PM

Subject:

Re: whitewater park at Price-Stubbs dam

To the BLM: this is being written to request that you amend the Price-Stubbs dam to a Downstream Rock Fish Passage with Whitewater Recreation Features. This new proposal would address safety issues regarding drowning hazard that are currently in place w/the existing dam. It would enhance the fish passage that is necessary to protect endangered fish species; it would improve and beautify the current entrance into the Grand Valley east corridor near Palisade. In essence, an opportunity to do a number of positive things in one project is presented and should go forth.

Thank you for the opoortunity to comment.

Sincerely, Susie Attaway 2834A Grand Falls Circle Grand Junction, Co 81501

Do you Yahoo!?

Yahoo! Mail - You care about security. So do we.

From:

<DonBettina@aol.com>

To: Date: <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov>

Date.

6/15/2004 6:31:55 PM

Subject:

river park

We have vacationed in CO extensively in the past and worked on the Arkansas in '95. A feature like this would definitely be a plus to our return. It would be an excuse to stay some extra time with the additional whitewater recreation that it would provide.

Sincerely, Bettina George PO Box 70

Mtn Rest, SC 29664

From: Ed Hansen <kayakguy73@yahoo.com>

To: <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov>
Date: 6/15/2004 2:04:14 PM
Subject: YES to whitewater park.

I am an avid whitewater kayaker who just heard about your proposed whitewater park.

I really hope you decided to create the whitewater park beside the fish ladder. Several times a year, I drive I-70 between Utah and the front range. I usually time my fuel/food stop in Fruita, and my play-in-the-river break at Shoshonee near Glenwood Springs.

I didn't realize Palisade was more than a big orchard or something. If there was a whitewater park to stop at, I could add-to or combine my stops on the way across I-70.

I really hope you guys make it, It's hot around there and a one or two hour cool-off with a bite to eat would be a nice break.

Thank you for your time, Ed Hansen of Florence, Colorado.

From: "Frank Bering" <frankbering@bresnan.net>
To: "Bureau of Reclamation" <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov>

Date: 6/16/2004 7:31:17 AM Subject: Whitewater Park

Dear Mr. Stroh, Price Stubbs is a World Class site for a whitewater park. I am a senior citizen and would use it often. International and National events could be held there as well as training for the junior teams, Olympic teams, and all classes of kayakers. We may even be surprised that fish might make there way up the Whitewater Course as well as the fish ladder. Best Regards, Frank Bering

### UTE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT OF RECLAMATION WCAO-ND

560 25 Road, P.O. Box 460 Grand Junction, CO 81502

Treatment Plant

Telephone: 970-242-7491 FAX: 970-242-9189

Office

2004 JUN 17 AM

**gelsch**one: 970-464-5563 970-464-5443

June 17, 2004

Sue Moyer, Deputy Area Manager **Bureau of Reclamation** Upper Colorado Region 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106 Grand Junction, CO 81506-8785

Dear Sue:

The Ute Water Conservancy District has the following concerns about the proposed fish passage and whitewater recreation area at the Price/Stubb diversion dam.

Maintenance of the current minimum water levels.

- 1. Maintenance of the current minimum water level on the upstream side of the dam is critical to the operations of the Ute Water pump station. Ute Water cannot see any lowering of that water level.
- Current plans call for the cutting of at least one notch and two notches with the whitewater portion of the project. If these will change the water level Ute must have the ability and the right to put stop logs in the notches whenever required.

Public Safety and liability concerns.

- 1. Current plans will run the whitewater users on the side of the river next to the pump station. Ute Water does not feel that this is a safe situation.
- The location is not a spectator friendly area. There is very limited access and no spectator areas. This means that spectators and participants will seek to use the pump station, interstate and the highway bridge as viewing areas.
- Parking areas within the area are extremely limited. How will parking restrictions be enforced and by whom?
- Who will indemnify Ute Water in any lawsuits filed because of the whitewater activity?
- Who will pay any increased insurance costs because of the whitewater activity?

Security concerns: - Security of water systems facilities is of major concern to local, state and federal governments. Who will pay for any increased security costs because of the whitewater activities in the area of the pump station.

### General questions:

What will be the periods of use for the whitewater area?

Who will police the area to insure that no one trespasses on the pump station?

What will be the minimum penalty for trespass on the pump station?

Who will take care of the trash?

What is the size of the notches?

If you need any further information about our questions and concerns please feel free to cal

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NORTHERN DIVISION

CNTF

arry W. Clever General Manager

Sincere

June 17, 2004

Mr. Terry Stroh Bureau of Reclamation 2764 Compass Drive Grand Junction, CO 81506

Dear Mr. Stroh:

Presented here are my comments on the Revised Supplemental Draft Environmental Assessment for the Price-Stubb Fish Passage:

I support the preferred alternative – Downstream Rock Fish Passage with Whitewater Recreation Features. This alternative best resolves the various issues facing this project.

I recommend adding the following two provisions to this alternative:

Provided for the emergency installation of flash boards in each dam cut if low water flows, at some time in the future, prevent Ute Water from making emergency domestic water extraction at their facility just up stream.

In the design, provide for water rescue attachments for use by the Sheriff. These should be provided whether or not the whitewater park is constructed.

### Other Comments:

Page 5. River Boating. I recommend the last sentence read "This Draft EA evaluates potential impacts associated with whitewater recreational features designed to enhance river recreation opportunities." The EA does not evaluate impacts from actions by CDOT.

Page 17. Last paragraph. I believe a 2.5% rock fill would address public recreation safety concerns. I have rafted actively for 10+ years on many rivers in the west and several in the east. Short stretches of 2.5% gradient are common on many rivers and are routinely negotiated by rafters and kayakers.

Page 24. Third paragraph. Second sentence. The latest population information I received from Mesa County in 2002 was 120,000.

Sincerely.

BOB CRON 310 Dakota Drive Grand Junction, CO. 81503 243-5738

# STATE OF COLORADO

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Region 3

222 South Sixth Street, Room 317 Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-2769 (970) 248-7223 FAX# (970) 248-7254

REC'D JUN 1 8 2004



RECEIVED BOR W.C

June 18, 2004

Ms. Sue Moyer Western Colorado Area Deputy Manager Bureau of Reclamation 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106 Grand Junction, Colorado 81506-8785 NORTHERN DIVISION

JUN 2 1 2004

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CLASS INITIALS VRN

Dear Ms. Moyer:

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has reviewed the Price-Stubb Fish Passage Revised
Supplemental Draft Environmental Assessment (RSDEA) dated April 19, 2004. CDOT has concerns that
the Bureau of Reclamation RSDEA contains incorrect information regarding right-of-way (ROW)
ownership and access issues and also does not adequately analyze the impacts associated with the preferred
alternative – Downstream Rock Fish Passage with Whitewater Features.

The ownership map located on page 42 of the document (Figure 13) contains incorrect land ownership information in the area downstream of the dam. This information should be corrected to show correct legal ownerships and contiguous I-70 R.O.W. It is indicated in several places in the RSDEA that access to the site would be from Highway 6 along an existing trail that lies within the railroad right-of-way and through CDOT property downstream from the dam. Presently, access is from the County Road along a gated trail that lies within the railroad right-of-way and through E.R. Jacobsen's property. Permission to grant construction or permanent access using this trail would need to be obtained from the Union Pacific Railroad and E.R. Jacobsen, not CDOT. The RSDEA does not indicate if the UPRR has been contacted and if permission has or has not been granted for construction or public recreation access. The RSDEA also states "construction staging and material storage would be on adjacent vacant lands owned by E.R. Jacobson and CDOT". CDOT does not allow construction staging or stockpile of materials on their property that is located within 100 feet of any riparian area or within the 100-year floodplain.

CDOT feels that the RSDEA does not adequately define the whitewater recreation features portion of the preferred alternative, Downstream Rock Fish Passage with Whitewater Recreation Features. The RSDEA indicates that the recreation features would include constructing a second notch in the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam for rafts and kayaks, and strategically placed boulders to create desired whitewater conditions on a 550 foot-long downstream rock ramp. The EA does not indicate the size of the second notch in the dam or the size, amount and location of boulders and thus cannot adequately analyze the impacts of this alternative to I-70 or CDOT's downstream structures. Evaluation of impacts of the preferred alternative must include an evaluation of all connected actions associated with the addition of whitewater features including boat put in and take out. The RSDEA does not analyze the impacts of construction of these required features.

The Public Safety issues have not been adequately addressed in the Supplemental Draft EA. As it stands now, public access to the dam area on the river right is not provided and the existing trail is closed except for railroad and private utility use. The area around the dam consists of several high retaining walls, which

Moyer Letter June 18, 2004 Page 2

pose a significant safety risk to the public. The area above the dam needed to gain access to the river is limited due to large structures and any access to the river above the dam would also have to go through railroad right-of-way. Encouraging and allowing public access to these areas poses significant public safety risks. No mitigation measures have been considered or provided to lessen the risk. The RSDEA does not discuss the public safety issue of additional public foot access in the area around the dam. In addition, the RSDEA did not address emergency service response or rescue features to be included as part of the preferred alternative.

The issues pertaining to the maintenance and liability associated with the recreational features have not been adequately addressed in the RSDEA. On Page 19, the RSDEA states that "recreational interests and possibly the Town of Palisade would provide maintenance, as needed, for the whitewater features including but not limited to removing trash and debris, and adjusting and/or resetting boulders after large flow events". CDOT can only enter into intergovernmental agreements with other governmental agencies and in this case the other governmental agency must assume maintenance and liability responsibilities.

CDOT, in consultation with FHWA, believe that the RSDEA would be adequate for approval of a fish passage within I-70 R.O.W with no whitewater features. The inclusion of whitewater features will require additional evaluation of impacts and mitigation for the issues described in our previous correspondence. CDOT also supports removal of the dam hazard to boating with the inclusion of a 4:1 grouted riprap slope shown in the fish passage only alternative.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 970-248-7223.

Sincerely,

Tamara J. Smith CDOT, Region 3

lamaia

Planning/Environmental Manager

cc: Fink Perske

FHWA: Ladow/Speral

file

From:

Pete Winn <petewinn@shangri-la-river-expeditions.com>

To: Date: <tstroh@uc.usbr.gov> 6/18/2004 1:00:08 PM

Subject:

Comments on Price-Stubb Fish Passage Revised Supplemental Draft Environmental

Assessment

Terry Stroh
US Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region
Western Colorado Area Office
2764 Compass Drive
Grand Junction CO 81501

Re: Price-Stubb Fish Passage Revised Supplemental Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

Dear Sirs/Ms:

Representatives of the WATER Club and the Grand Valley River Park Foundation have worked hard for many years to

gain approval for a whitewater park at the Price-Stubb Dam. We have sought support from the Bureau of Reclamation,

Town of Palisade, Mesa County, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Palisade and Mesa Irrigation districts (the owners of the

dam), Jacobson Hydro-West (land owner on river right), the Colorado Riverfront Commission (which donated \$32,500

towards engineering and construction), the Colorado Department of Transportation (owner of the land below the river)

and many other agencies, businesses, organizations and individuals. The preferred alternative in the draft EA is an

indication that our efforts are being rewarded.

We agree that the preferred alternative, in-channel fish passage with whitewater features, is the best alternative for these

reasons in addition to those listed in the EA:

1) If the US Bureau of Reclamation is authorized to spend about \$4 million in taxpayer money on endangered fish, it

really makes sense to let recreation users raise an additional 12% from private and lottery sources for their own benefit.

2) Over the past twenty or thiry years, the Grand Valley has produced some pretty talented boaters. Today we have two

girls on the US Junior Olympic team, but they have to travel to Glenwood or Golden to train, then they'll leave the valley

when they graduate from high school. We can build a world class whitewater park at Price-Stubb that will allow Grand

Valley youth to train locally and that will attract talented boaters from out of town, some of whom will decide to move

here because of the park.

3) Other cities have benefited economically from whitewater parks, and Palisade will also benefit. Golden is so happy

with their park they've added to it over the years, and other cities are building new ones to take advantage of the growing

number of boaters in Colorado.

4) If the whitewater park is not built, the alternative will be a riprap ramp that could be hazardous, especially at high

water. Some boaters will try to run it anyway, and for safety it's much better to funnel the water into a channel with man

made whitewater features that are designed to be safe at all river levels for a variety of skill levels.

5) The Bureau makes the distinction between a whitewater park, which requires land access on river right, and the

downstream rock passage with whitewater recreational features, which only includes features in the river itself and

requires land access at Island Acres State Park about three miles upstream. They hint that a whitewater park is a good

idea because if the Colorado Department of Transportation does not allow land access at the site, boaters will be

tempted to park along the freeway on river left to access the fish ladder, which is far more dangerous than allowing land

access on river right. We strongly support land access on river right approach and believe that it should be included in the

construction plans.

Regarding issues of concern that have been expressed by others:

1) If a whitewater park notch was cut in addition to the fish passage notch, the level of water in the pool one-half mile

above the dam at low flows might be too low for the Ute Water emergency pump to operate properly. The Bureau's

studies indicate a drop of 2 to 3 inches at the dam would not significantly affect the water level at the Ute pump, and it

offered to provide its documentation to Ute Water engineers for review.

2) The site is near a hazardous 50 mph curve and the Colorado Department of Transportation indicated about \$35,000

would need to be spent to extend a four foot high barrier on the river side of the freeway to block views of the site.

According to the Colorado State Patrol, in Glenwood Canyon, where I-70 has so many sharp curves that there is a 50

mph speed limit for the entire twelve mile stretch, there are four times as many accidents in the winter, when there aren't

any boaters, as there are in the summer, and there isn't any stretch of road with a four foot high barrier. At Big Sur, a

wave train which appears in very high water years just west of the western-most tunnel on I-70 in Debeque Canyon,

there were no accidents when there were dozens of boaters surfing the waves from mid May to mid June, 1997 (and no

4 foot high barrier). Clearly, bad road conditions cause a lot more accidents than colorful boats on the water. But if

adding 1000 feet of four foot barrier is what it takes to get the support of CDOT, we'll try to find the money. Hopefully.

either Fish Passage funds or the GOCO grant we are hoping to obtain will cover this cost.

3) It will be necessary to obtain recreational easements from the five property owners to gain access on river right: the

railroad, CDOT, Jacobson Hydro-West, and Palisade and Mesa County irrigation companies. Preliminary discussions

indicate this is feasible.

4) It is inevitable that more people mean more trash, and a couple of Palisade residents are concerned about who will

pay for trash clean-up. Also, parking and toilet facilities are related concerns. Having proper land access should mitigate

these concerns. Increased tax revenues to the town of Palisade will more

than compensate the Town for providing

services at the whitewater park as part of their existing park program.

5) The recreation community does not yet have the \$400,000 estimated by the Bureau for engineering and construction.

We intend to obtain it from a GOCO grant, which is not a certainty. However, other towns have been successful in using

GOCO funds, and this project certainly qualifies, so we are optimistic that we will succeed.

Sincerely,

Pete Winn

Co-chairman, Western Association to Enjoy Rivers (WATER) Whitewater Park Committee P.O. Box 2151 Grand Junction CO 81502

Director, Grand Valley River Park Foundation 418 S. 7th, Grand Junction, CO 81501





#### RIVERFRONT COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2477 Grand Junction, Colorado 81502 (970) 245-0045

Sponsors:
Fruita
Grand Junction
Mesa County
Palisade

June 18, 2004

Terence Stroh Bureau of Reclamation Western Colorado Area Office 2764 Compass Drive Grand Junction, CO 81506

Dear Mr. Stroh:

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CONTAIL DE CANON

We would like to express the support of the Colorado Riverfront Commission for the endangered fish passage at the Price-Stubb dam. In particular, the Commission endorses the Preferred Alternative described in the recent revised Environmental Assessment on the fish passage, the Downstream Rock Fish Passage with Whitewater Recreational Features Alternative.

The Colorado Riverfront Commission was founded in 1987 for the reclamation and preservation of the entire reach of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers in Mesa County in order to improve wildlife habitat, to maintain open space within the river corridors and to enhance the rivers' potential for recreation and environmental education. The Preferred Alternative is in concert with key elements of our founding mission in that it not only will increase the range of several endangered fish species, but will at the same time provide an important addition to the river's recreation potential.

The Commission has supported earlier projects of the recovery plan for the endangered fish of the Colorado River and will continue to support efforts toward their recovery. We have also collaborated with the partnership that is attempting to raise funds for construction of the water park at the fish passage and will continue in the effort to make the water park a reality. In addition to providing a wonderful recreation opportunity for Colorado boaters, it will surely benefit the community of Palisade.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

Mark Gardner Co-Chairperson

Colorado Riverfront Commission

Mark Con dre

Paul Jones Co-Chairperson

Colorado Riverfront Commission



REGION 10 LEAGUE FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND PLANNING, INC.

Mr. Terry Stroh Bureau of Reclamation 2064 Compass Dr. Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Mr. Stroh:

Delta County City of Delta Town of Cedaredge Town of Crawford Town of Orchard City Town of Hotchkiss

I am writing in regards to the Revised Supplement Draft of the EIS for the Price/Stubb Fish passage in Palisade. I recommend that the BOR select its preferred alternative-"Downstream Fish Passage with Whitewater Recreation Features" as the final alternative.

RECEIVED BOR W.C NORTHERN DIVISION

CMTR FLDR

Gunnison County

Town of Paonia

The ability to turn the current structure into a wildlife/recreation friendly facility makes both economic and environmental sense. The whitewater facility will attract City of Gunnison many recreational users from the Telluride, Ouray, Ridgeway, Montrose, Delta, Grand Town of Mt. Crested Butte Town of Mt. Crested Butte Tunction and Moab areas. Whitewater parks have proven time after time to be a valuable community asset!

Hinsdale County Town of Lake City

Thank you for your time and please let me know the final decision of the BOR.

Montrose County City of Montrose Town of Naturita Town of Nucla

Lee Bartlett Town of Olathe **AAA** Coordinator

Region 10

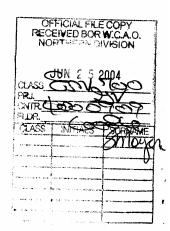
Ouray County City of Ouray Town of Ridgway

San Miguel County Town of Telluride Town of Mountain Village

Town of Norwood



June 22, 2004



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SUE MOYER
DEPUTY AREA MANAGER
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
2764 COMPASS DRIVE, SUITE 106
GRAND JUNCTION CO 81506-8785

Re: Providing Endangered Fish Passage at the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam on the Colorado River

Dear Ms. Moyer:

I am in receipt of your May 17, 2004 cover letter and Revised Supplemental Draft Environmental Assessment for the Price-Stubb Fish Passage. I would like to state for the record that the Union Pacific Railroad Company has legitimate safety concerns with the Plan proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation and will do everything in its power to fight its implementation.

It is my understanding that as part of this Plan, the Bureau of Reclamation would also like to allow the use of the Railroad's right-of-way as a point of access to a proposed whitewater park at the dam site. For safety reasons, the Railroad will not allow this type of use on its right-of-way. The proposed use by the Bureau would bring a large number of vehicles and pedestrians in close proximity of the Railroad's main line track. Therefore, the Railroad must decline any request for public access along its right-of-way.

If it is necessary to discuss this in more detail or schedule a meeting, call me at (402) 997-3552.

yours truly,

MANAGER - REAL ESTATE

Real Estate

Approved by Law 05/11/00

Cuan Misu May in

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD 1800 Farnam Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102 fx. (402) 997-3601

# STATE OF COLORADO

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Region 3

222 South Sixth Street, Room 317 Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-2769 (970) 248-7225 FAX# (970) 248-7254

August 30, 2004

Town of Palisade Attn: Tina Darrah P.O. Box 128 Palisade, CO 81526-0128

RE: Whitewater Park East of Palisade

Dear Ms. Darrah:

Thank you for coordinating the August 24, 2004 meeting concerning the proposed Whitewater Park east of Palisade. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has been working with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the Town of Palisade, and numerous other interested parties to accommodate safe public use of this portion of the Colorado River within the I-70 right of way (ROW).

CDOT does support the Town of Palisade GOCO application to fund the construction of a Colorado River whitewater park and whitewater river features. CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) can authorize construction of the whitewater features in the I-70 ROW if Palisade can secure public access along the Union Pacific Railroad ROW and provide safety measures for I-70 traffic. Palisade and the BOR are proceeding to acquire the necessary easements and agreements to develop, own, and operate the whitewater park and will finalize the project design as we outlined in our meeting.

CDOT and FHWA must review and approve final plans and develop an Intergovernmental Agreement with Palisade prior to approving construction of the recreation facility. We are aware that the schedule and timelines for this project are linked to the BOR endangered fish passage project and will work diligently to support them. However, we do recommend that Palisade and the BOR initiate requests for an IGA and permit approvals as soon as the project design, property acquisition, and easements are completed.

Sincerely,

Ed Fink

Director, Transportation Region 3

cc: Perske Roussin

FHWA: Ladow/Speral

file